FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 AUGUST 1986

Israel

Reaction to Soviet Statement — The Soviet statement on the Helsinki talks is "regrettable" and proves that the USSR has not changed its stand on the problem of Soviet Jewry, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Avi'ezer Pazner asserted in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. However, Soviet Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov's announcement does not detract from the importance of the Israeli-Soviet meeting, Pazner said, and although no further contacts have been decided on, this should not be ruled out completely. The radio also broadcast Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' remark that the issue of Soviet Jewry will remain a central issue for Israel and that the USSR must renew diplomatic relations with Israel if it wants a role in Middle East political developments. As for the Soviet request to send a consular delegation to examine Soviet assets in Israel, Foreign Ministry sources cited by *Hadashot* said that Israel should reconsider its willingness to permit such a visit because of the Soviet refusal to allow an Israeli delegation to visit Moscow in order to meet with emigration refuseniks.

The Israeli comment followed Gerasimov's statement, reported by TASS, that the Israeli delegation in Helsinki went outside the consular framework of the talks by making a political statement on the Middle East crisis and by raising the issue of Soviet Jews. Maintaining that Israel has no right to speak on behalf of Soviet Jews, he accused Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of "crude interference" in the USSR's affairs on account of Shamir's alleged declaration that Israel has "valuable property" in the Soviet Union in the form of "two million entrapped Jews." Gerasimov stressed that there is no Israeli property in the USSR and that there are no Israeli citizens permanently residing on Soviet territory. The two sides at Helsinki found no common language, he said, adding that the question of the trip by Soviet consular officials to Israel was "dropped" and that there were no talks on further contacts.

Relations With Egypt — Avraham Tamir, the director general of Peres' office, has not succeeded in arranging a date for an Israeli-Egyptian summit meeting, Jerusalem radio disclosed in a report on Tamir's talks with President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria. The radio said the Egyptians are tying the date to the completion of the preparation of the arbitral compromis on Tabah.

Iran

Al-Asad Message — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' departed Tehran after a brief visit, IRNA announced, adding that he delivered a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i assuring Iran of Syria's continued support. Earlier, Al-Shar' said Al-Asad's message concerned recent developments in the region as well as issues of mutual interest, Damascus radio reported.

Oil Minister in Moscow — During "businesslike" talks in Moscow, the Soviet prime minister and the Iranian oil minister stated that the different social systems of the two countries' should not impede the expansion of fruitful bilateral relations, TASS reported.

Mojahedin on Bombing — A Mojahedin-e Khalq spokesman in London condemned the 19 August car bomb blast in Tehran that killed 20 people, according to KUNA, which cited the opposition group's contention that the recent series of explosions in the country was the result of infighting among Iranian authorities.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes hit two "large maritime targets" off the Iranian coast in separate attacks late 19 August and early the next day, according to military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Sudan

The culture and cooperation minister announced that the SPLA's recent downing of a passenger plane "absolves" the government from any agreement with rebel leader John Garang, Omdurman radio reported. Earlier, the same radio asserted that Sudanese troops from Malakal tried to reach the plane wreckage but were hindered by floods and natural barriers. However, an SPLA spokesman cited by the movement's clandestine radio maintained that no government troops have ventured outside Malakal since the plane was shot down. The spokesman also expressed confidence that SPLA air defenses will shoot down more planes and renewed the SPLA's call for the evacuation of four southern cities.

In Khartoum, riot police using tear gas and clubs dispersed "hundreds" involved in a protest against the shootdown, SUNA reported, noting that the demonstration was organized by the Islamic National Front.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that the government is to meet in order to hold a dialogue "in accordance with the spirit of the tripartite agreement, and in keeping with any agreement that might receive the unanimous approval of the government as a program of reform." The government will seek parliamentary approval for any agreement it reaches, he added. Karami made his announcement after meeting with Finance Minister Camille Sham'un and Health Minister Joseph al-Hashim in the Chamber of Deputies building. Meanwhile, 45 deputies attended a parliamentary session in the building, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, JANA reported. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, ways of confronting apartheid, and Israeli "infiltration" of Africa, the agency continued.

Tunisia

The prime minister announced economic reform measures designed to alleviate pressures caused by a slowdown in economic growth that led to a rise in unemployment, Tunis radio reported. a devaluation of the dinar by 10 percent, and reforms in taxation, import, and pricing policies are among the new steps instituted.

Pakistan

An official statement reported by Karachi radio announced that the Tando Adam area of Sind was "under control" after law enforcement personnel quelled a demonstration there by 2,000 persons. Delhi radio reported that Army personnel were required for the task.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 161 *20 August 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Najibullah Delivers Independence Day Speech ..... C 1

INDIA

Gandhi on Independent Policy, Punjab Problem ..... E 1
Further Reportage on Visit of Soviet Official ..... E 1
Views Friendship Treaty ..... E 1
Holds News Conference ..... E 1
Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab, New Delhi ..... E 1
Terrorists Confess to Pakistani Links ..... E 1
Delhi Curfew Extended 7 Days ..... E 2
Curfew Imposed After Violence in Gujarat Town ..... E 2
Commentator Views Recent Incidents in Pakistan ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Reportage on Situation in Lahore, Karachi Areas ..... F 1
Chief Minister on 'Antinational Forces' ..... F 1
Press Notes on Violence Issued ..... F 1
Remarks of 'Certain' Countries Criticized ..... F 1
Activities of 'Antisocial Elements' ..... F 1
Delhi Reports Further 'Agitation' ..... F 1
Further on Visit of Iranian Foreign Minister ..... F 2
First Round of Talks Held ..... F 2
Tehran Details Talks ..... F 2
Meets With Acting President *[Tehran]* ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Journalists Arrested for Article on Gurkhas *[AFP]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

AFP: Bulgaria's Yordanov Arrives for 3-Day Visit ..... G 1
Tamil Militants Oppose Agreement With Government *[AFP]* ..... G 1
SUN Editorial Comments on Sikh, Tamil 'Similarities' *[12 Aug]* ..... G 2

IRAN

Majlis Speaker Arrives in Mashhad 18 Aug ..... I 1
Delivers Address on Self-Sufficiency ..... I 1
Majlis Speaker on 'Phenomenon' of War Participation ..... I 1
Montazeri Meets With New Ground Forces Commander ..... I 2
Further Reportage on Visit of Syrian Foreign Minister ..... I 2
Meets With Besharati ..... I 2
Received by Khamene'i ..... I 2
Meets With Prime Minister ..... I 2
Concludes Visit, Departs ..... I 3

Mirzadeh, PRC Envoy Discuss Expansion of Relations ..... I 3
Oil Exports Continue 'Non-Stop' Despite Attacks ..... I 3
Demonstration Against 'World Arrogance' Held in Mecca ..... I 3
Hajj Chief Praises Afghan Mujahidin 'Resistance' ..... I 3
Commentary Questions Iraqi Attack on Sirri Island ..... I 4
Iraqi 'Revolutionaries' Claim Attack on Power Plant ..... I 4
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 4
Communique No 2,568 ..... I 4

Najibullah Delivers Independence Day Speech

LD200007 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, 18 Aug (BAKHTAR) — Text of radio and television speech by Comrade Najibullah, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee, on the occasion of Afghanistan's Independence Day:

Courageous Afghan compatriots, brothers and sisters, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Political Bureau, the Revolutionary Council Presidium and the DRA Government, I congratulate you all on the occasion of the great state, national festival, that is, Independence Day of beloved Afghanistan.

Independence is a sacred legacy from our heroic fathers and forefathers who during fierce wars brought English colonialists to their knees for the first time in Asia and defended the independence of the homeland. Independence is a profound word which has a broad meaning and in the first instance means national sovereignty, state and territorial integrity, and then economic independence and normal conditions for human life and [words indistinct]. Independence is the right of people to determine their destiny and to solve all problems of their domestic life and of foreign policy. Independence is a valuable treasure of our people and of the criteria of our everyday life. By relying on it we move on the chosen path of the revolution, and realize in practice the aspirations of our noble ancestors and the strugglers of the new and independent Afghanistan for which they have fought.

The custom is that on such a day the country's leaders present reports to people on the accomplished work.

One year ago we began elections for the local government organs. Now the elections are successfully nearing completion. The jirgahs of people's delegates, in which for the first time the representatives of all nationalities, tribes, and clans have been equally elected on the basis of complete democracy, are being transformed to people's organs in localities, which are the objective basis of independence in villages, subdistricts, districts, cities, and provinces.

One year ago we were only thinking about the draft of the first 5-year plan. Today this plan has acquired legal status which determines economic life and consolidates the pillars of the economic independence of Afghanistan both in the industrial and agricultural sectors. During this year [beginning 21 March 86], 1,400 state apartments, 150 cooperative apartments, and more than 11,000 privately owned houses have been built. Thirteen factories, 112 schools, 74 hospitals and 53 nurseries have been made operational and put into use. During this period 10,704 families have received land, and land ownership documents have been distributed to 62,000 peasants. If it had not been for this undeclared and damned war the achievements would have been much greater.

One year ago we accelerated work on the expansion of the social pillars of revolutionary sovereignty. Today hundreds and thousands of patriots participate in the struggle for the reconstruction of the history of our beloved country. Patriots at various levels of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the Council of Ministers, the National Fatherland Front and the local government organs are struggling to strengthen the democratic Afghan state and to enhance the defense of its independence and guarantee the freedom of religion. That was a brief summary of the achievements of our revolutionary people made in light of the realizations of the decisions of the 18th and 19th PDPA Central Committee plenums. The revolution and the party have one aim: to make the persecuted people prosperous as soon as possible and to make Afghanistan prosperous. You know who is creating obstacles to the achievement of this great aim. The enemies strike the heart of our homeland with bullets and use foul language against our toiling people. Let us see what sort of constructive policy they propose: no policy, nothing can be expected from traitors and agents except foul language.

Dear compatriots, we should be able to defend our independence. In this connection Comrade M.S. Gorbachev in his Vladivostok speech clearly pointed out that wherever independence is transformed to great international value [as received] and wherever the colonialist interests of imperialism are endangered the imperialists on their own will resort to economic threats, plots, and intrigues against the country's leaders and interfere in its internal affairs, support separatists, finance counterrevolutionaries and terrorists, and even directly arm them. We have experienced all this during the undeclared war imposed on us by imperialism and the reaction of the region. So the main task in every sphere is the comprehensive consolidation of the independence of Afghanistan. And in the first instance in the military sphere. It is no coincidence that today we celebrate this festival in two ways. This year for the first time 19 August is celebrated as Army Day in the DRA. There is a simple and logical link here.

At the beginning of our century the armed people of Afghanistan defended their independence. Today the heroic personnel of the Army, Sarandoy, and Ministry of State Security give a crushing rebuff to armed aggression and will continue the rightful struggle to final victory. Our Army celebrates its day with new victories. If a year ago we were speaking of the need for intensifying training, combat capability, and independence in operations, today we have examples in hand of the successful solutions of these tasks. I mean the combat operations of Khowst, Jaji, Herat, Konduz, Paghman, and Wardak. These victories have a logical link with the victories of our ancestors in Sherpur, Bala Hesar, Paryan, Ghazni, Maywand, Paktia, and Khyber. So on behalf of the people we lay flowers at the Paghman Victory Arch to express our appreciation. The filthy and evil rebels have even violated this sacred place. They have tried to destroy it. However, we will reconstruct it.

Dear compatriots, the Afghans love their Army which is truly a popular Army. The DRA Revolutionary Council, in accordance with the proposal of the people's jirgahs and the Ministry of Defense, has awarded the honorary title of hero to three units for the best combat services in defense of the homeland. These are: the 37th Assault Landing [desant-e Hojumi] Brigade, the 322d Regiment of the Air Force, and the 2d Border Brigade. This high assessment is made from the collective heroism of our brave soldiers. I congratulate you, dear soldiers.

The title of "Hero of the DRA" is awarded to the following people for heroism in defending the gains of the April Revolution,

independence, national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the country, and in performing a significant role in strengthening the defense capabilities of the DRA:

Martyr Comrade Fayz Muhammad, Army officer, member of the PDPA Central Committee and former Minister of DRA Borders. To the last moments of his life, he performed his lofty human duty and was martyred by the criminal rebels;
Brigadier General Martyr Comrade Ahmaduddin, former adjutant [drastizwal] of the Central Army Corps. Many people knew this hero commander who, fighting to the last bullet and preferring death to captivity, detonated his hand grenade and joined the ranks of martyrs;
Captain Comrade Sher Zamin, pilot of the 355th Regiment of the Air Force;
Comrade Joma Khan, platoon commander of the 2d Company, 3d Battalion, 37th Assault Landing Brigade.

This is a high assessment of the individual heroism and bravery of the true sons of the homeland.

A number of troops and commanders, including the DRA minister of defense, have been promoted. Noble sons of the homeland, may your festival be a blessed one. We can confidently say that the son is following in the path of his father.

Dear soldiers of the heroic units, dear heroes of the DRA, you are the pride and honor of Afghanistan. Writers will write about your heroism; poets will write poems, and composers will compose songs. You are a vivid model and example for our youth. We are fully confident that thousands of youths want to join the ranks of the Armed Forces to stay beside you. All soldiers will follow you. They will crush the enemy like Sher Zamin and Joma Khan. In this glorious moment, we bow in the memory of the martyrs. Their names are eternal in our hearts and their epics for the honor of the homeland will never be forgotten.

Dear compatriots, the fraternal and internationalist assistance of our great neighbor, the Soviet Union, has played a decisive role in strengthening our independence, the country of the Soviets was the first country to recognize our independence. The great Lenin was the first figure to support the struggle of our ancestors, and today the sons of the country of Lenin are together with us. We have become powerful with their assistance and stand on our feet, preserving our political and economic independence. It is because of this that the reduction of the limited contingents of the internationalist troops begins. Our historic cooperation, friendship, and fraternity have been deepened and have acquired an all-round nature. However, we should irreversably shoulder the solution of military and defense tasks ourselves. People's activities are increasing. The organizational forms of people's power are being strengthened. Restructuring of the party and political work in all aspects of social life is directed so that the energy of the masses of people will be more fully utilized. We ought to achieve a speedy turning point in the national reconciliation and accord, an end to bloodshed, and constructive work in the interests of the ever-increasing prosperity of our free and independent homeland. We extend the hand of cooperation to all those who want to build a new life with us in the DRA. Let us work with each other, not fight against each other.

Sisters and brothers, what are the main problems whose solutions largely determine our independence?

First, further strengthening the army and enhancing its combat capabilities. Preserving the homeland's independence is the duty of everyone.

Second, covering the borders with Pakistan and Iran is a collective task, and here we have a particular expectation from our courageous Pashtun border tribes.

The third is the consolidation of the economy. The successful implementation of plans is the patriotic duty of every toiling Afghan.

The fourth is the expansion and deepening of the restructuring that has begun. Party members, members of the social organizations, and all patriots should enhance their share in defense of the homeland and rise resolutely for the struggle to remove deficiencies, corruption, embezzlement and for all-round strengthening of party and social affairs.

Finally, our serious activity in the sphere of foreign policy is the policy of peace. We repeatedly address the deceived Afghans to return to the bosom of the homeland, the warmth of the family, and the mountains you have loved since the childhood. Your ancestral land awaits you, farms await you, and trees need your attention.

Dear compatriots, once again I congratulate you all on the occasion of this national festival, the Independence Day of Afghanistan.

All true patriots defend beloved Afghanistan, the homeland of your heroic ancestors! Forward toward the struggle against the enemies of the April Revolution. We need peace! We will fight to gain it!

We will be victorious!

Gandhi on Independent Policy, Punjab Problem

BK200459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has declared that India's freedom cannot be bargained for economic or any other gains and the country will continue to pursue its independent policies. He was inaugurating the one-day national youth convention in New Delhi today organized by the Youth Congress-I.

Mr Gandhi said India's rapid growth in economy, development in science and technology, and the policy of nonalignment, combined with democratic traditions, have not been taken well by some alien powers. He asserted that India will not yield to any such pressure while moving ahead on the path of self-reliance and progress. He called for building up a strong work culture for achieving national goals.

Mr Gandhi cautioned the people against mixing religion and language with politics. He said political parties should rise above parochial gains and help fight the forces of extremism and violence.

Referring to Punjab problem, Mr Gandhi said security forces now have an upper hand and the terrorists are on the run. He said terrorism has to be tackled both by tightening security and at the political level. He voiced government determination to counter terrorism on all fronts.

Mr Gandhi said efforts will be made to bring back the misguided youths into the national mainstream. He asked the people not to lose their nerve at this moment of challenge. Stressing the need to preserve national values and cultural heritage, Mr Gandhi said social reconstruction must accompany economic advancement.

Explaining the need for disarmament, Mr Gandhi said no country today can live in isolation. A nuclear holocaust will affect India as much as any other country of the world.

Mr Gandhi called upon the youths to carry the message of nationalism to the remotest corners and launch a Bharat banao andolan [Build India movement] for national integration.

In his welcome address, the president of the Youth Congress-I Mr Anand Sharma warned the youths of great conspiracy to divide the country. In a resolution, the convention called upon the youth in the country to resist the forces of subversion and violence trying to weaken and destabilize the country. It condemned senseless killings of innocent people in Punjab and said the opposition must cooperate with the government in fighting antinational and secessionist forces. In another resolution, the convention lauded the progress made by the country in a difficult climate. It also appreciated the policy of the government of promoting friendship and cooperation with our neighbors.

The convention was attended by over 7,000 delegates from all over the country and a large number of party members of legislative assemblies and M?'s. They paid tribute and observed silence in memory of the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the retired army chief, General Vaidya.

Further Reportage on Visit of Soviet Official

Views Friendship Treaty

BK190320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] The visiting Soviet vice president, Mr Tatliyev, has said the India-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation is not directed against any third country. In augurating the India-Soviet Friendship Society in Madras, he said the 15-year old treaty is the guarantee of equal rights and mutual respect between the two countries. Referring to the Nonaligned Movement, he praise India's contributions to the cause of coexistence and justice.

Holds News Conference

BK191013 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] The Soviet vice president, Mr S.B. Tatliyev, says his country has been taking steps to end the arms race and pointed out that the unilateral extension of moratorium on nuclear tests is a step in that direction. Addressing a news conference in Madras today, he praised India for its initiative to bring about nuclear disarmament and check arms race.

The Soviet vice president condemned the killing of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka and criticized the forces which are trying to spoil the relations between India and Sri Lanka.

Referring to Sino-Soviet relations, Mr Tatliyev said improvement of the relations between the two countries will not affect Moscow's relationship with any Asian and Pacific region country. Mr Tatliyev lashed out on the United States for its stand on disarmament. He said while Soviet Union had been unilaterally extending its moratorium on nuclear tests, Washington has not responded so far in a concrete manner.

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab, New Delhi

Terrorists Confess to Pakistani Links

BK191625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, two notorious terrorists, Tarsem Singh Kohar and Sukhdev Singh, recently arrested by the Kapurthala police, have confessed to having received arms and ammunition from Pakistan. The district police chief told newsmen that during interrorgation, Sukhdev Singh said he and some others had been visiting Pakistan often for the purpose.

Meanwhile, the Hoshiarpur District police today claimed to have arrested five alleged terrorists wanted in connection with several cases. They have been identified as Harjinder Singh, Charanjit Singh, Makhan Singh, Charanjit Singh Khanpur and Ravinder Singh. A pistol, three live cartridges, and a scooter were recovered from Makhan Singh, who is also wanted in a dacoity [robbery] case in Damoli village.

Delhi Curfew Extended 7 Days

BK191605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] In Delhi, the curfew in the areas under Tilak Nagar police station has been lifted. The curfew was clamped on the 26th of last month following violent incidents. According to a press release issued by the police, the prohibitory orders in the areas under the police stations of Tilak Nagar, Janakpuri and Chanakyapuri will however continue for another 7 days from tomorrow.

Curfew Imposed After Violence in Gujarat Town

BK200333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] In Gujarat, 2 persons were killed in stabbing incidents and 345 injured others injured following disturbances in Baroda which suddenly broke out last night. Indefinite curfew has been imposed in all the areas in the Wadi and city police station areas from 2200 last night. According to the Baroda police, the disturbances started in the city because of firing from a speeding car in Panijet area last night. A number of incidents of stabbing, stone throwing, and arson are reported. Police fired 41 rounds at different places to disperse the violent crowds. Five persons were injured in police firing. Additional police forces have been deployed in the area. The Barodo police commissioner told our Ahmadabad correspondent this morning that no incident has taken place in the city after midnight and the situation is now under control.

Commentator Views Recent Incidents in Pakistan

BK191411 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt: "Developments in Pakistan"]

[Text] For almost a week now there have been a series of protest demonstrations in several parts of Pakistan including its two major cities of Lahore — the very heart of the country — and the port city of Karachi. The people have been voicing their disapproval of the large-scale arrests made by the government of more than a thousand political leaders including Miss Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party, PPP, and several top persons from the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, MRD.

The MRD is a group of a number of opposition parties now in alliance with the PPP of Miss Bhutto. Together they demand fresh elections to the National Assembly, the parliament of Pakistan. They do not recognize the polls staged by General Ziaul Haq in March last year when the cadidates were made to shed their political label and were prevented from putting any program before the electorate. The parties were barred and there was no such thing as a party manifesto or political campaigning. Miss Bhutto was then in virtual exile in London and the MRD parties also had boycotted the elections.

Earlier, General Zia had got himself elected as president of Pakistan in December 1984 in an extraordinary election. There was no other candidate and the voters were asked to approve Gen Zia's fundamentalist Islamic policies. The result was taken as a positive vote and Mr Zia was proclaimed president for 5 years.

After the elections to the National Assembly last year, Gen Ziaul Haq converted a nonparty assembly into a house with political parties. The method used was to encourage the conservative Muslim League to mobilize the majority of the members into a major group. Since the major parties had stayed away from the poll in protest against its character which lacked the form and spirit of democracy, as they said, the Muslim League easily emerged as a leading group.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, the leader of the party, was projected by Gen Zia as a democratically-elected leader. Mr Zia himself had continued to be the chief of the Army, apart from being the president of Pakistan. While Islamabad's military ally, the United States Government, was pleased by the show of democracy, the people of Pakistan failed to be impressed.

This became evident when Miss Bhutto finally returned to her motherland a few months ago. The reception she received was simply tumultuous, all the way from Lahore to Karachi. It was interpreted by observers as the people's hunger for return to democracy which has been denied to them by the elite except for a brief period. It was also seen as an affirmation of Miss Bhutto's major plank that the March 1985 poll was a sham and fresh elections must be held. She has planned to launch a campaign for a fresh poll in September in collaboration with the MRD leaders. As a testing ground for such a major struggle, she and the MRD had planned to hold a rally in Lahore on the 14th of this month, Pakistan's independence day. Mr Junejo himself was to address a rally of his party close to the venue of the popular rally. Alarmed with the prospect of being exposed by a massive turnout for Miss Bhutto's rally and a comparatively unspectacular performance of his party despite the government support that he could count upon, Mr Junejo called off his own rally. He also banned the rival gathering.

In a way, the struggle for a fresh poll and for restoration of democracy thus began with the banning of this popular rally and the subsequent detention of Miss Bhutto and scores of other leaders. Demonstrators have clashed with the police and several have died. There have been arson and attacks on public property, roads have been blocked, and street battles have been fought between the police and the demonstrators. The trouble has been particularly widespread in the province of Sind which has been feeling alienated from the Pakistan Government, which they [the people of Sind] say, is dominated by others. Miss Bhutto herself belongs to Sind, although she enjoys supports in all parts of the country, judging by the popular response she had in Punjab, a major province of Pakistan. Mr Ziaul Haq had alleged that her rallies were financed by other countries, but the charge was lacking in credibility. Now, Pakistan's ally and benfactor, the United States, has criticized the crackdown on opposition leaders. So have West Germany and Libya. At one time, Pakistan was a big beneficiary of Libyan President Qadhdhafi's munificence, although now their relations are not stated to be good. The rest of the world is also watching this struggle for democratic freedom and fresh elections with interest.

Reportage on Situation in Lahore, Karachi Areas

Chief Minister on 'Antinational Forces'

BK191557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said the government has been fully implementing the prime minister's 5-point program for social and economic development. Speaking to notables who met him in Karachi today, the chief minister said priorities have been set to extract benefits in a prudent and just manner from the existing financial resources. In this connection, underdeveloped areas have been given due attention.

Stressing the need for maintaining peaceful conditions, he said we should rise above our selfish interests and work only for our national interests. Our progress and well-being depend on this.

He said the government will not tolerate terrorism and will not allow anybody to take law in his hands. He urged the people to forget their petty differences and establish total solidarity in their ranks to give a fitting reply to those antinational forces trying to weaken the ideological foundation of the country. Referring to those who indulge in destroying public property, he said that in fact these people are causing damage to themselves.

Press Notes on Violence Issued

BK200229 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Excerpt] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Sanghar says that about 2,000 persons, 200 armed, gathered at Tando Adam at about 1400 yesterday and started damaging public and private property and firing indiscriminately on law enforcement personnel. The law enforcement agencies took steps to deal with the situation, which is now under control.

A press note issued by the district magistrate of Sukkur describes as baseless and concocted a report published in some newspapers claiming that one person was killed as a result of police firing in Sukkur on 18 August. The press note adds that no person has been killed in Sukkur District since 14 August when the Movement for Restoration of Democracy launched its protest demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Remarks of 'Certain' Countries Criticized

BK191735 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has described statements made by certain foreign governments on the current law and order situation in some parts of the country as regrettable. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said such remarks which impinged on the internal political situation in the country amounted to unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and were incompatible with the accepted norms of interstate relations. Paksitan's concern has been conveyed to these governments in suitable grounds.

Activities of 'Antisocial Elements'

BK191730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] An official handout issued in Karachi tonight says, as a result of public protest and widespread condemnation of unlawful activities of antisocial elements, there has been marked decrease in serious types of disturbances in the province. However, few incidents are reported from some places. One vehicle was burnt in Karachi and an incident of small-scale stone pelting has been reported in Baghdadi area of the city. A bus was also burned at Mahubabad in Tando Mohammad Khan, while a branch of United Bank Limited was attacked and damaged in Jacobabad.

The handout says in Tando Adam the people went on strike today against the killing of a child by the firing of miscreants. The handout further says two dead bodies were recovered from a banana field in Tando Jam as sequel to yesterday's firing incident.

A press note issued by the district magistrate, Nawabshah, says two groups of people, some of them armed with lethal weapons, tried to set on fire Awam Express at (?Daur) railway station in the district yesterday but were prevented from doing so by prompt action of the police. The mob later opened fire at the police and set on fire the railway station. Police tried to scare them away by firing in which one miscreant was killed and another injured. Five culprits have been arrested. The press note says a few houses and villages near Qazi Ahmad town were also inundated when some miscreants gave a cut [as heard] to a canal some distance away on Sunday [17 August] night.

A railway spokesman said in Karachi today that passenger train traffic to and from upcountry stations resumed this morning after lengthy overnight delay. He said the Peshawar-bound Awam Express and Lahore-bound Karachi Express left Karachi this morning on schedule. About a dozen trains which had been delayed overnight while bound to and from Karachi continued on their journey this morning. He said depending on the condition of the rail track and other factors, train traffic may be subject to further delay. Some fishplates have been removed from rail tracks at some spots but railway staff detected this well in time and repairs have been carried out where necessary. The spokesman said that four railway stations have been badly damaged in the recent violence in different parts of Sind. One of these stations Palijani was on the main line while the other three were located on branch line.

Delhi Reports Further 'Agitation'

BK200309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] In Pakistan, antigovernment demonstrators clashed with the police yesterday even as the Army was called out in several districts in Sind to crush the current agitation in support of fresh elections. Twenty-six people are reported to have died so far. Reports say the agitation has spread to fresh areas including Lahore. Violent incidents continued in Sind. Railway tracks in some areas and office buildings were damaged.

There were several clashes between supporters of the ruling Muslim League and Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party. The government yesterday ordered closure of all schools and colleges for another 2 weeks. Today is the 3d day of the campaign launched by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy to force the government to hold elections.

Further on Visit of Iranian Foreign Minister

First Round of Talks Held

BK190125 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, held the first round of talks in Islamabad this morning. Radio Pakistan's representative understands that the discussions focused on bilateral matters and international issues.

Earlier, the Iranian foreign minister called on Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and exchanged views on bilateral matters and regional issues.

Tehran Details Talks

LD191256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Unidentified correspondent's Islamabad dispatch]

[Text] The first round of talks between the Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers started in Islamabad today. The Iranian delegation and a number of high-ranking officials of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry were present.

Pakistan Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in a speech referring to the historical and cultural ties between the two countries and to President Khamene'i visit to Pakistan, said: The visit by President Khamene'i to Pakistan is considered as a turning point in the relations between Iran and Pakistan. He also stressed the importance of expanding mutual relations and cooperation between the two countries. Referring to the role of the two Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan in the world, especially among Islamic and nonaligned countries, he said: Iran has no debts and gives a great deal to help to solve the problems and needs of Third World countries.

Referring to his recent trips to a number of Latin American and African countries, Foreign Minister Velayati expressed the hope that his trip to Pakistan, on the eve of the nonaligned summit, and the cooperation between the two countries on an international level would be effective. Our country's foreign minister then referred to the important problems in the Islamic world and in countries that have been forced to remain backward, and to the need to raise these issues at the forthcoming nonaligned conference in Harare. He said: At the conference, the issue of Palestine, the crimes and aggression of the regime occupying Palestine, the issue of Afghanistan, the situation in South Africa and apartheid, and the economic crisis in Third World countries, which stems from the increasing foreign debts of those countries, should be reviewed.

He added: The issue of Palestine and the aggression of the Zionist regime against Islamic lands, and the treacherous attempts by people, such as the shah of Morocco [King Hassan], must be condemned. He added: The fate of Palestine affects the whole Islamic world and is not solely confined to the Arabs. Although the Zionists have occupied Palestine, the passage of time does not give them any rights of sovereignty. Iran regards Palestine as before. [as heard]

Meets With Acting President

NC200625 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Unidentified correspondent's dispatch from Islamabad]

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, met with Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, chief of the Senate and acting president of Pakistan, last night. Pakistan's foreign minister and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to this country also attended the meeting. During the course of this session, bilateral relations, the upcoming Nonaligned Movement summit, and an increase in trade and commercial ties were discussed.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan alluded to the historical and cultural ties existing between the two countries. He said: President Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan has had a far-reaching effect on the relations between Iran and Pakistan. He expressed hope that the joint economic commission session scheduled to be held in Tehran next week will result in an expansion of these relations.

At this meeting, Mr Velayati emphasized the need for the two countries to expand and consolidate their relations and collaborate on an international level. He expressed hope that coordination between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan would be maintained at international organizations, especially the upcoming Nonaligned Movement session in Harare. Our foreign minister also stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is still waiting for world condemnation of the Iraqi regime as the aggressor in the war.

It may also be reported that Mr Velayati and his accompanying delegation attended a banquet hosted by the chief of the Senate and acting president of Pakistan last night.

NEPAL

Journalists Arrested for Article on Gurkhas

BK171214 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Katmandu, Aug 17 (AFP) — The publisher of a Nepalese daily and a columnist have been arrested for printing "objectional" material concerning a Gurkha autonomy movement in India, an official source said Sunday.

Keshav Shumshere Rana, the chief editor and publisher of the English-language daily, *The Valley News and Views*, and columnist Harihar Raj Joshi, were arrested last week, the source said.

The daily had carried two articles recently dealing with a demand by Gurkhas in Darjeeling for an autonomous Gurkhaland and published pictures of recent violence related to the conflict in the northeastern Indian city, the source said.

Mr. Joshi was arrested for allegedly making a false reference in the article to a 30 million rupee contribution from Nepal to the Gurkhaland agitators, the source said. Nepalese authorities have denied the charge as "false and baseless."

Under Nepal's Press and Publication Act, a publisher is held directly responsible for the material appearing in his publication. *The Valley News and Views* has been effectively banned by having its registration cancelled.

Nepalese authorities have said the Gurkhaland issue is a purely Indian affair in which Nepal does not want to interfere.

The leader of the Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), Subash Ghising, was quoted in the Aug. 13 edition of *The Valley News and Views* as saying that Gurkhas living in Darjeeling were demanding Indian citizenship.

The GNLF says Gurkhas, hillmen of Nepalese origin, are treated like "second class citizens," in India and are demanding an autonomous Gurkhaland with federal India.

SRI LANKA

AFP: Bulgaria's Yordanov Arrives for 3-Day Visit

BK171405 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 17 (AFP) — Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Georgi Yordanov arrived here Sunday for a three-day official visit.

A spokesman for Sri Lanka's Ministry of Cultural Affairs said Mr Yordanov would leave for the interior Monday to view the progress of a programme, undertaken by the ministry with foreign aid, to restore places of historical and cultural interest in the North Central and Central Provinces.

During his stay Mr Yordanov is also due to meet Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed, sources said.

Tamil Militants Oppose Agreement With Government

NC192157 Paris AFP in English 2148 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 19 (AFP) — Tamil militant groups, apparently rebutting a plea by India, on Tuesday close ranks [as received] in an effort to oppose the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) from entering into "any hasty" agreement with the Sri Lanka Government.

Tamil militants now here for talks with Indian officials said the groups would also decide on putting up a united front against the armed forces of the strife-torn island nation.

Top militant leader Velupillai Pirabhakaran told the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) news agency that the militants had launched "a major offensive" for evolving a joint strategy to oppose the TULF, which is currently holding talks with the Sri Lankan Government in Colombo.

Mr. Pirabhakaran, who heads the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the biggest militant group, said reports had been received that TULF would soon sign an accord with the government on behalf of the island's entire Tamil population.

The Indian Government had Monday asked the five groups to support the Colombo peace talks, which resumed on August 15 after a three-week recess. India's Foreign Secretary, A.P. Venkateswaran had also Monday appealed the Tamil militants not to spoil the atmosphere at the talks and urged them to join the efforts to reach a political settlement of the island's ethnic-separatist crisis.

V. Balakumar, a spokesman for the truncated Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), said the unity efforts among the militants were progressing "smoothly", PTI said. He added that Mr. Pirabhakaran would soon meet his arch-rival, Uma Maheshwaran, who heads the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE). The two groups have been at odds since they fought each other in the south Indian city of Madras four years ago.

PTI said the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), many of whose members were killed in a fratricidal battle with Mr. Pirabhakaran's LTTE, had also extended support to the unity move.

However, a scheduled meeting between leaders of the five Tamil groups with India's Foreign Minister Shiv Shankar failed to take place Tuesday. PTI said the militants were likely to meet the minister Wednesday.

In addition to LTTE, PLOTE and TELO, the other two major militant Tamil groups are the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS).

The militant groups had rejected talks with the Sri Lankan Government on its latest peace proposals on the grounds that they did not go far enough in meeting separatist demands, including recognition of what they call their right to a separate homeland.

SUN Editorial Comments on Sikh, Tamil 'Similarities'

BK191149 Colombo SUN in English 12 Aug 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Striking Similarities"]

[Text] The reign of terror that has been unleashed by the Sikh extremists in India, has apparently snuffed out the life of yet another distinguished personality and underscored the sheer inhumanity and unmitigated brutality of separatism anywhere in the world.

The cold-blooded murder of India's most decorated soldier, Lieutenant General Arun Vaidya, by alleged Sikh terrorists in broad daylight, is a deadly blow, not only to India, but to the whole sub-continent and the South Asian region as well.

Besides his record as one of India's most distinguished soldiers, Lieutenant General Arun Vaidya performed the invaluable task of preserving India's unity and territorial integrity when the bloody hand of Sikh terrorism was strengthening its grip on the Indian body politic and threatening to wrench it apart. In June 1984, Lieutenant General Vaidya masterminded the now-famous, 'Operation Bluestar' on the Sikh's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, and freed it of hordes of terrorists.

India has then lost another distinguished son, and the region a military hero, who symbolised the will to resist the growing horror of separatism.

Yet India is not going to succumb to the terror tactics of the Sikh separatists or adopt a weak-kneed approach in its task of resolving the Punjabi imbroglio. New Delhi is committed to a political solution to the crisis in Punjab. It is for this reason and for no other, that Premier Rajiv Gandhi entered into a peace pact with the late Akali Dal chief, Harchand Singh Longowal. However, for some reason or other, the peace accords have not been implemented, and terrorists are continuing to have a field day, not only in Punjab, but also in numerous other India cities like Delhi and Bombay.

Until a favourable political climate is generated and the peace accords finally implemented, India is going to handle Sikh terrorism with an iron hand and put down all attempts at plunging the Indian union into anarchy, notwithstanding threats to even its national leaders.

This is as it should be because terrorism creates law and order problems and it's the principal duty of the state to preserve a stable security environment.

Despite the substantial differences, between the Sikh problem and the separatist insurgency here, one couldn't help observing certain glaring similarities.

The Sri Lanka government has made it quite plain that it is earnestly pursuing peace. It has finally evolved suitable proposals to end the Tamil problem here, and these have been accepted by many peace-loving nations, including India.

Nevertheless, terrorism is continuing to plague this country. Hundreds of lives are being lost to the forces of anarchy. The extremists in the north, like the Punjabi separatists, don't want peace. Dialogue and negotiations are anathema to them.

The Sri Lanka government and New Delhi are in the same predicament. While pursuing a negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem, Colombo has to tackle law and order problems that are created by terrorism everyday.

The peace process will be facilitated if New Delhi denounces Tamil terrorism in more unequivocal terrms and co-operates more closely with the Sri Lankan government in cracking down on terrorists, especially those operating from Madras. Uniform standards will not only help Indo-Lanka relations but the entire region as well.

Majlis Speaker Arrives in Mashhad 18 Aug

LD182012 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 18, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here Monday to visit the holy shrine of Imam Reza. Superintendent of Imam Reza's holy shrine Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi, Friday prayers leader of Mashhad Ayatollah Shirazi, and many other provincial officials welcomed Hoj. Rafsanjani at the airport. Commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Shamkhani is accompanying the Majlis speaker in his visit.

Delivers Address on Self-Sufficiency

LD191926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] In reference to the continued visit to the holy city of Mashhad by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, our correspondent has sent us the following dispatch:

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, is continuing his visit to Mashhad. This afternoon he attended an auspicious rally of Mashhad citizens from all sectors and pilgrims to the divine shrine of the holy Eighth Imam — may peace be upon him! — at the Imam Khomeyni Quadrangle in the holy shrine.

On meeting the people Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani read a speech on the country's present circumstances and momentous tasks and duties facing our Islamic nation at this sensitive juncture. Reminding the rally of the fact of the inception of the Islamic revolution and its spread toward continuing the path of prophets and their divine movement, he referred to the renewed resurgence of the power of Islam in regard to world blasphemy and polytheism.

He added: Today world blasphemy, led by the United States on the one hand and by Marxism on the other, is terrified by the power called Islam which has stood up to them. Today the superpowers' invincible talisman has been broken and the world has learned from our nation the lesson of steadfastness and the possibility of victory over the world's bullying powers.

Referring to the vast efforts by the enemies of the revolution aimed at extinguishing the flames of this Islamic movement, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council then began speaking on the issue of the war. He said: In the war which has been imposed on us, today the greater part of world power has been utilized; it is unprecedented in all the world's past wars that all this power is arrayed against one nation. This is aimed at crushing the revolutionary power and dignity acquired by our nation, thanks to Islam!

Referring to Saddam's peace-seeking posture recently adopted for the umpteenth time under the pretext of an open letter by Saddam coupled with massive propaganda by the world propaganda mouthpieces, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: By such means world arrogance attempts to portray us as war-mongering and Saddam as peace-loving. However, we say we want peace, but only genuine peace and not the peace of the United States, Saddam, and regional reaction who wish to drag the Islamic Republic down to defeat in a protracted cold war, thereby repeating the experiment of setting of Israel in the heart of the Islamic country and divert our entire capabilities and power toward confronting the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, continuing his speech to the auspicious rally of the Mashhad people, added: Today if we were to lay down our arms, taking them up again would no longer be possible and that would drag us along a path which we are loathe to take. Let me proclaim here and now that the best, most appropriate, and effective time for going to the fronts is right now when the fate of the war must be sealed forever.

Referring to the new economic conditions and financial pressures which the enemy has imposed on us by raiding oil installations and reducing oil prices, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: Their calcualtion was that, without the price of oil, Iran could not secure the front and what lies behind it and that the subsequent difficulties would bring Iran to its knees. However, thanks to our planning and to our people's cooperation we shall use the new circumstances to expedite attaining victory within the scope of self-sufficiency and eocnomic independence.

Concluding his speech the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly called on the people, particularly those engaged in domestic production, to redouble their efforts toward attaining industrial self-sufficiency and utilizing domestic capabilities. He added: If we manage to bear these pressures, tolerate the difficulties inherent in this sensitive point in time, and turn shortages into a motivation for meeting our domestic needs, then, by the blessing of God, in the near future we will reach a position where a great many of our problems will be solved and our need for foreigners greatly reduced.

Majlis Speaker on 'Phenomenon' of War Participation

LD180728 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — The Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking to a group of Basij volunteer forces here Sunday said that massive participation of the Iranian masses in the Iraqi-imposed war is a post-revolutionary phenomenon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani who is also the special representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defense Council, said that devout masses of Iran consider fighting off the Iraqi Ba'thist forces a duty. Therefore, the farmers, the workers and the students join the battlefields.

On the enthusiastic participation of the public in war efforts, he said that it was due to the effect of Islam and its supreme values in raising political and social understanding of the Iranian people.

More on the Iraqi-imposed war, he said that the enemy has become frantic and the only option it has is occasional bombard-

ment of a small industry in Iran or hitting a ship in the Persian Gulf waters. The strategy of the Iraqi regime has proved to be a failure, he added. As for financial and military support given to the Iraqi regime by its allies, he said that they were doing so because they were afraid of post-Saddam era.

The Majlis speaker once again praised role of the Basij volunteers in the course of the war and said that they were the most valuable and unending resources who are inspired by Islam.

Montazeri Meets With New Ground Forces Commander

NC200535 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] His eminence Ayatollah Montazeri met with the new commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Forces yesterday. During this meeting, he prayed for the commander's success in his new post. The ayatollah stated: Convey my greetings to all combatants, to all brothers in the military, and to all the officers and sergeants. Tell them that a strong and experienced army is always needed to defend the length and breadth of a country's frontiers. This responsibility is given to the Armed Forces in the constitution. The noble 'Ali [the prophet's son-in-law] also emphasized this point in his book the Nahj ol-Balagheh on the duties of the Army and the Armed Forces.

In view of this war which has been imposed on us in the aftermath of our revolution and the disarray within ranks this revolution created, Ayatollah Montazeri said that there was no other way to attain victory except by rallying all available forces — that is, the people, the military, the clergy, and even university personnel — to fight together in a united front against the enemy's onslaught and to defend the country's revolution in the same way that Vietnam acted against the U.S. attack. The role of the Guards' Corps and all the people's forces at the fronts is great, of course, and deserves attention and appreciation. In any case, defense of the frontiers is the responsibility of the Armed Forces. It is therefore imperative that the Armed Forces avail themselves of the experiences gained in the war and raise their standard of training. In this way, they will make themselves strong and complete.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Montazeri emphatically requested the new commander of the Ground Forces to see that greater attention is paid to individuals. Subordinates should be treated in a deferential manner and with humility in accordance with Islamic norms of behavior. Nothing can be achieved with threats or belligerence. A chief or a commander can be more successful in his work with subordinates if his conduct is docile and brotherly.

Further Reportage on Visit of Syrian Foreign Minister

Meets With Besharati

LD191528 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA — Syrian foreign minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here Tuesday and was welcomed by acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati at the airport.

Upon his arrival, Al-Shar' told reporters that he is visiting Tehran in order to submit to President 'Ali Khamene'i a message from his Syrian counterpart Hafiz Al-Asad and discuss matters of mutual interest with high-ranking Iranian officials. The Syrian foreign minister said he will also discuss regional issues as well as Tehran-Damascus stance on international issues.

Besharati said that Iran-Syria enjoy friendly relations. He furthermore expressed hope that the visit would help align Iran-Syria viewpoints on various issues at the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Received by Khamene'i

LD191727 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i and presented him a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Iranian president thanked the visiting Syrian official for the message and expressed hope for a further growth of ties between Iran and Syria.

Foreign Ministry official Mohammad Behasarati was present in the meeting.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD191852 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' here Tuesday that close Tehran-Damascus ties have so far thwarted many plots hatched by enemies of the Muslim world. The prime minister said that friendly Irano-Syria ties would also serve to influence the fate of Muslim and Arab nations in the future.

On the recent talks between King Hassan II of Morocco and Shim'on Peres, Musavi said that the regime occupying Palestine regards the talks as a "victory" because it intends to dictate an imposed-peace to all Arab countries. But, he said, resistance of the Damascus government against the Jerusalem occupying regime is laudable.

The premier also reiterated Iran's unchangeable policy on maintaining security in the Persian Gulf region and said that expansion of diplomatic relations between Iran and foreign countries are based on principles laid down by the Islamic Revolution.

In response, the Syrian foreign minister emphasized that Tehran-Damascus share joint outlooks on regional as well as international issues. He also lauded the Islamic Republic for its principled stand against the visit of the Zionist regime's prime minister to Morocco.

Present also at the meeting were political Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri and acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Concludes Visit, Departs
LD191853 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 19, IRNA — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Tehran for Damascus at the end of his one-day visit. The Syrian minister arrived in Tehran Tuesday afternoon and met and held talks with Iran's President Khamene'i and Prime Minister Musavi.

Faruq al-Shar' was also conveying a message to the Iranian president from the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message assures President Khamene'i of continued Syrian support for Iran. The Syrian president also congratulated Khamene'i on the occasion of the Muslim feast of 'Id al-Adha (Aug. 16).

Mirzadeh, PRC Envoy Discuss Expansion of Relations
LD191901 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA — Potential fields for expansion of Tehran-Beijing relations were discussed in a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister [title as received] Hamid Mirzadeh and China's ambassador to Tehran Wang Benzuo here Tuesday.

In the meeting, Mirzadeh reiterated the necessity of pursuing the Irano-Chinese letter of understanding signed during his 17-25 July visit to Beijing. He said the two countries can expand their relations and have effective cooperation on technical, scientific and economic issues.

The Chinese ambassador also announced his country's readiness to implement contents of the letter.

Oil Exports Continue 'Non-Stop' Despite Attacks
LD181633 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — Iran continues to export its oil non-stop despite barbaric Iraqi attacks, said Director-General of the Oil Ministry's department for oil rich districts Mohammad Javad Asemipur here Monday.

Asemipur said that Iran's exploitation and export of oil has not ceased and that the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has been unable to stop the exports even a one [as received] day.

Iran will continue exporting its oil and Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil terminals such as Sirri are not capable of decreasing oil exports, he said.

The official said that by March 20, 1986 Iran had reserves of 37.8 billion barrels of oil which figure, he said, would go up by 17 billion barrels once gas injection projects are executed. Some Rls 70 billion (Dlrs 875 million) have been allocated for execution of 829 oil projects throughout the country, he said.

Asemipur said that training of manpower for domestic oil industry is one of the important duties of his department noting that the Oil Ministry enjoys the most equipped training centers in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Commentary Questions Iraqi Attack on Sirri Island
LD151146 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Almost daily for some months the Iraqi ruling regime has claimed to have destroyed Khark Island. [passage omitted] All these claims are false and illusory. They are myths and farces woven by imagination. For the facts are the opposite of these allegations and claims. Khark still exists, functioning normally and suffering no harm. Our oil exports have been finding their way as usual on to the world markets. [passage omitted]

For some months the Baghdad ruling regime has been harping on the tune of Khark and its destruction. But the Baghdad regime seems to have realized that this has struck a false note and has thus decided to redress the situation by harping on a new tune of attacking Sirri Island, using the same claims of destruction and devastation.

Even if Sirri were really exposed to the aircraft attacks of the Baghdad regime, or if an oil tanker or a commercial vessel were exposed to the fire of these planes, life would not come to an end, the clock could never be turned back, and none of these acts would constitute sufficient pressure to force an end to the war and the fighting.

Sirri is only one of our numerous small islands scattered all along our lengthy coast on the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Our oil exports can find their way to the world markets from any point on this long coast. Why then all this empty boasting?

Hitting a ship or a tanker in international waters in this or that area will not force an end to the war and the fighting. However, if we were to comment on the attacks on the international lines of communications in Gulf waters, we would comment on the way the Baghdad regime's aircraft managed to reach this area. How did these aircraft get here and through what airspace? Did they really take off from air bases inside Iraq and refuel in another country's air space, or did they take off originally from that country's air bases?

These are legitimate questions. But the answer to them is not all that difficult and can be found through the radar monitoring of aircraft flights. When things become clear and the facts are exposed, then we will know how to deal with the matter. We will have the right to act, pursue, and punish the accomplices who went so far in their collusion.

Demonstration Against 'World Arrogance' Held in Mecca
LD192214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] According to our correspondents dispatched to Saudi Arabia, the self-sacrificers of the Islamic revolution this afternoon staged a glorious demonstration in the noble Mecca and expressed their hatred for and aversion to world arrogance. From 1730 Saudi Arabian time this afternoon, the self-sacrificers of the Islamic revolution dispatched to Saudi Arabia,

followed by some of the Iranian and foreign pilgrims to the blessed House of God, began a glorious march from the Blessed Mosque. Chanting the crushing slogans "Death to America," "eath to the Soviet Union," "Death to Israel," they once again called upon Muslims from other parts of the world to unite against colonialists.

The report says that after passing through a number of streets in Mecca, the marchers gathered at the Abi Talib cemetery -- peace be upon him -- and after religious lamentations listened to a speech by a clergyman. At the end they prayed for long life for the imam of the ummah and for victory for the combatants of Islam.

Hajj Chief Praises Afghan Mujahidin 'Resistance'

LD170953 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Mina, Aug. 17, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, Saturday praised armed struggles of Afghan Muslim people and called on them to continue their resistance until final victory.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, speaking in a meeting with hundreds of Afghan Hajj pilgrims here, said that a U.S.-inspired peace obtained through negotiations would create a condition for Afghan Muslims similar to the present abject situation of Palestinians. Victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran further consolidated struggles of Afghan Muslims, he added.

Referring to the peace proposal by the superpower of the East, he said that for various reasons the Soviet Government was not able to continue its support for the subservient regime in Kabul. [as received] Under such peace proposal, he said, only the plunderer will change and the Afghan nation who have sustained heavy casualties in the past seven years would be deprived of having their own government.

At the end of the meeting, representative of the Muslim mujahidin condemned measures which would sow discord and stressed that political solution to the issue of Afghanistan was a U.S.-inspired move which was not approved by Afghan Muslims.

Iraqi 'Revolutionaries' Claim Attack on Power Plant

LD192238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] In a statement Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries have claimed responsibility for the explosion that rocked a power plant on the Al-Najaf-Abu Sukhayr highway. A Central News Unit reports notes that the statement emphasizes the continuation of attacks on installations belonging to the Saddam regime, saying: The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries planted quantities of explosives at the 800-mw power plant on the Al-Najaf-Abu Sukhayr highway last month and succeeded in blowing it up and in inflicting a great many casualties and losses.

According to this report, during these successful operations a great fire engulfed the power plant and its ancillary building. For three days several cities, including [names indistinct], were left without power, normally supplied by that power plant. The losses caused by that explosion and the electricity cut are estimated at 500,000 Iraqi dinars.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,568

LD191656 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA — At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five light as well as heavy vehicles of theirs destroyed in parts of the southern fronts Monday when enemy positions were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Joint Staff Communique number 2568 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under foreign flag in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed the ship to continue voyage after being satisfied that it was not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

Ianian forces blasted parts of Iraqi positions in the western fronts Monday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying four vehicles of theirs, the communique said. Exchange of artillery fire in these fronts raged more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin.

The communique said that Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses when an enemy motorized column including tanks and personnel carriers in Naft-e Shah was reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Muslim forces of Iran pounded Iraqi positions destroying two engineering vehicles of theirs. They also checked movements of Iraqi supply vehicles and of those carrying enemy personnel in these fronts especially at the heights of Chuman-Mostafa and Panjwin.

Elsewhere, the communique said that heavy Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi armoured units in Yebis and Eynkhosh operational theaters, southern fronts, Monday silencing their fire and disrupting their operations over the same period.

Iraqi forces incurred substantial casualties and damage in the southern fronts where their positions were reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian forces, according to the communique.

The military communique said that Iranian Muslim combatants checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Talaiyeh and Zayd, southern fronts. They also disrupted enemy engineering operations in Basra operational theater.